

Dr. Roger N. Beachy
President
Donald Danforth Plant Science Center

Dr. Roger N. Beachy, a member of the NAS, is internationally known for his work on virus-resistant plants. In January 1999, he assumed the position of President of the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center, in St. Louis, Missouri. As its first President, Dr. Beachy is responsible for setting the Danforth Center's strategic direction, hiring staff and formulating its research programs. He was selected for this position following a broad, international search.

From 1991 to 1998, Dr. Beachy headed the Division of Plant Biology at The Scripps Research Institute, a leading biomedical research center, in La Jolla, California. He was also co-director of the International Laboratory for Tropical Agricultural Biotechnology.

Prior to joining the Scripps Institute, Dr. Beachy was a member of the Washington University Biology Department from 1978 to 1991 where he was Professor and Head of the Center for Plant Science and Biotechnology. His work at Washington University, in collaboration with Monsanto Company, led to development of the world's first genetically altered food crop, a variety of tomato that was modified for resistance to virus disease. His technique to produce virus resistance in tomatoes has been replicated by other researchers to produce many types of plants with resistance to a number of different virus diseases. Research under Dr. Beachy's direction has led to a number of patent applications. He has edited or contributed to 50 book articles and his work has produced more than 190 journal publications. Dr. Beachy often lectures on plant biology and biotechnology.

Dr. Beachy has received a number of honors for his research; most recently, he was awarded the Wolf Prize in Agriculture for 2001. Beachy is a member of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences. In 2000, Beachy received The D. Robert Hoagland Award from the American Society for Plant Physiologists and the William D. Phillips Technology Advancement Award from the Regional Commerce and Growth Association in St. Louis. Dr. Beachy was named R&D Magazine's Scientist of the Year for 1999. In 1995, the San Diego Press Club recognized Dr. Beachy with a Headliner of the Year Award. He was the 1991 recipient of the Commonwealth Award for Science and Industry, given by the Bank of Delaware. In 1990, Dr. Beachy received the Ruth Allen Award from the American Phytopathological Society and he is a Fellow in the AAAS. Dr. Beachy has served on numerous boards and committees including the Committee on Biological Control of Diseases of the National Research Council and the International Union of Biological Sciences. He is a member of a number of scientific societies, including the American Society for Plant Physiology, American Phytopathological Society, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, and the American Society for Virology, among others. He has served as consultant for a number of companies in plant biotechnology.

Dr. Beachy holds a Ph.D. in plant pathology from Michigan State University. He earned a B.A. in biology from Goshen College in Goshen, Indiana.